

CHAIRMAN MANNING AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,

MY NAME IS DOM TIBERI AND I AM HERE TODAY TO TESTIFY IN
SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 285. DISTRACTED DRIVING HAS
BECOME A MAJOR PROBLEM IN OUR STATE AND WE NEED TO
DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE CULTURE. WE NEED
PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT IT IS NOT SOME HARMLESS THING
AND INSTEAD IT IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY.

MY LIFE CHANGED FOREVER ON SEPTEMBER 17TH OF 2013. OUR
21-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WAS TRAVELING SOUTH ON I-270
WHEN FOR WHAT EVER REASON SHE SLAMMED INTO THE
BACK OF A STOPPED SEMI TRUCK AT 53 MILES AN HOUR. AFTER
AN INVESTIGATION THE POLICE DETERMINED THAT AN
UNKNOWN DISTRACTION WAS PROBABLY THE CAUSE OF THE
CRASH. TO THIS DAY WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MARIA WAS
DOING ... ALL WE KNOW IS THAT SHE LOST HER LIFE.... AND WE
LOST OUR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER. THIS SEPTEMBER WILL
MARK 7 YEARS SINCE WE LOST HER BUT I PROMISE YOU IT
SEEMS LIKE IT JUST HAPPENED. FOR MY WIFE TERRI AND I THIS
IS A NIGHTMARE THAT SIMPLY WILL NOT QUIT. THE PAIN OF
LOSING HER DOES NOT GO AWAY. I KNOW THIS MUCH...
PARENTS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BURY THEIR CHILDREN.

THROUGH OUR PAIN WE HAVE CREATED MARIA'S MESSAGE
AND THE MARIA TIBERI FOUNDATION. IT IS OUR MISSION TO
SAVE LIVES... WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE ANY OTHER FAMILIES
GO THROUGH THIS NIGHTMARE. I HAVE TAKEN MARIA'S

MESSAGE TO OVER 120 HIGH SCHOOLS AND TO OVER 100 THOUSAND KIDS. I SHARE WITH THEM OUR STORY AND HOW DANGEROUS DISTRACTED DRIVING IS.... THROUGH OUR FOUNDATION WE HAVE PURCHASED 44 DRIVING SIMULATORS AND HAVE PLACED THEM ALL OVER THE STATE OF OHIO, MAINLY WITH POLICE DEPARTMENTS. AND OPENING SOON WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND DRIVING SIMULATOR SCHOOL. WE HAVE PURCHASED 25 SIMULATORS AND WILL PUT THEM IN A CLASSROOM AT TOLLES TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND WILL MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO ANY KID IN CENTRAL OHIO. OUR GOAL IS TO GO STATEWIDE.

I WAS A PART OF A TASK FORCE THAT TOOK A LOOK AT DISTRACTED DRIVING. WE WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT WE MUST CHANGE THE CULTURE. AND IT CAN BE DONE... BACK WHEN I WAS A KID NO ONE WORE SEATBELTS... BUT TODAY WE ALL WEAR SEATBELTS.... WE CHANGED THE CULTURE... WE MUST DO A BETTER JOB OF EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN WHEN IT COMES TO DRIVING A CAR. WE NEED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT DISTRACTED DRIVING IS A SERIOUS THING THAT CAN COST THEM THEIR LIVES. BUT IT IS NOT JUST KIDS AND WE ALL NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB. WE AS ADULTS NEED TO SET A BETTER EXAMPLE FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE ARE ALL ATTACHED TO OUR CELL PHONES AND OUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES.... THEY HAVE MADE OUR LIVES MUCH EASIER.... THEY MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO DO OUR JOBS... AND WHILE THEY ARE AMAZING DEVICES IN WHAT THEY DO... THEY SHOULD NOT BE USED WHILE DRIVING A CAR.... LIKE I SAID THEY HAVE MADE OUR LIVES EASIER.... BUT WITH THAT SAID USING A PHONE

WHILE YOU DRIVING COULD COST YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.

I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 285 AND BELIEVE IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION IN HELPING TO CHANGE THE CULTURE. CAR CRASHES ARE THE LEADING KILLER OF OUR CHILDREN.... AMONGST ALL AGE GROUPS.... HEART DISEASE IS NUMBER ONE.... CANCER IS NUMBER TWO AND CAR CRASHES NUMBER THREE.... I ASK YOU WHAT IS MORE PREVENTABLE....? WE MUST END THIS MADNESS WE MUST CHANGE THE CULTURE...

ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE, TERRI, OUR FAMILY, AND ALL OF THOSE THAT ARE IN THIS SICK CLUB THAT HAS LOST A CHILD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TODAY ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER. THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO CHANGE THE CULTURE HERE IN OHIO.